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JCS525 U.S. PTO

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PTO/SB/05 (12/97)
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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL		Attorney Docket No.	BELOCOR-171	Total Pages	
		First Named Inventor or Application Identifier			
		Christopher J. LaRiviere			
(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))		Express Mail Label No.	EM 164 412 687 US		
APPLICATION ELEMENTS		Assistant Commissioner for Patents			
See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.		ADDRESS TO:		Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)	6.	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)	<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">JCS530 U.S. PTO 09/16/99 03/02/99</div>	
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages 17] (preferred arrangement set forth below) - Descriptive title of the Invention - Cross References to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R&D - Reference to Microfiche Appendix - Background of the Invention - Brief Summary of the Invention - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description - Claim(s) - Abstract of the Disclosure	7.	<input type="checkbox"/> Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies		
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (356 USC 113) [Total Sheets 3]				
4.	<input type="checkbox"/> Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3] a. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed) [Note Box 5 below] <input type="checkbox"/> i. DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).	ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS			
5.	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked). The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.	8.	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))		
		9.	<input type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney		
		10.	<input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable)		
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		12.	<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment		
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		15.	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)		
		16.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Initial Information Data Sheet</u>		
17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION , check appropriate box and supply the requisite information: <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Divisional <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____ /					
18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
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Initial Information Data Sheet

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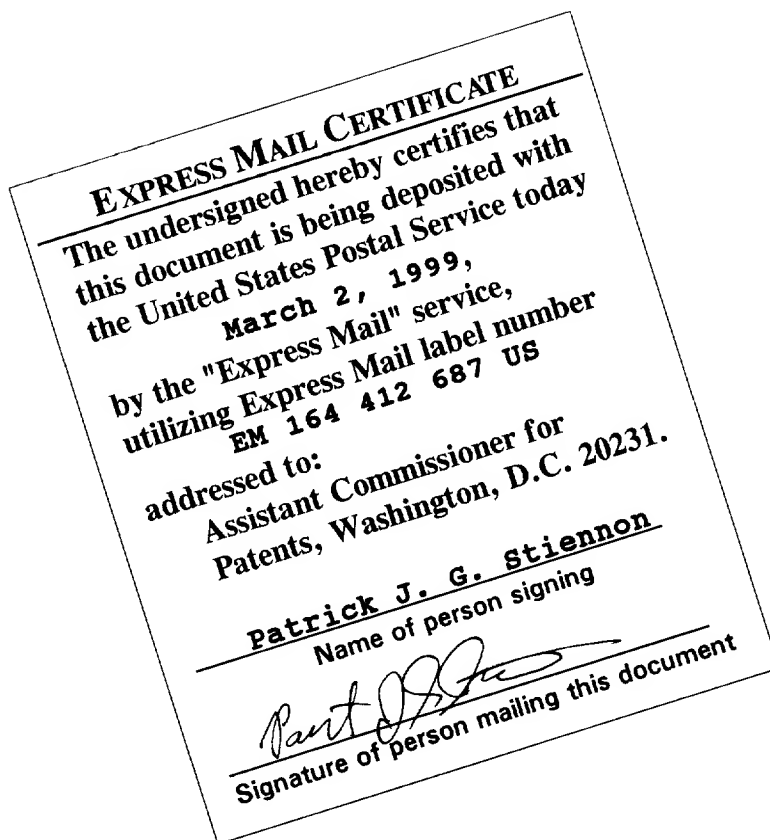
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Application Information

Title Line One:: Tangential Discharge Disk Refiner
Total Drawing Sheets:: 3
Formal Drawings:: Formal
Docket Number:: BELOCOR-171
Application Type:: Utility

03/02/99 09/260458 jc530 U.S. PTO



TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Tangential Discharge Disk Refiner

CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

STATEMENT AS TO RIGHTS TO INVENTIONS MADE UNDER FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to refiners for treating paper pulp fibers to condition the fibers prior to delivery to a papermaking machine and to refiners for handling stock having a consistency of about 3 to about 6 percent fiber by weight.

10

Disc refiners are used in the papermaking industry to prepare paper pulp fibers for the forming of paper on a papermaking machine.

Paper stock containing three to six percent dry weight fibers is fed between closely opposed rotating discs within the refiner. The refiner discs perform an abrading operation on the paper fibers as they transit radially between the opposed moving and non-moving refiner discs. The purpose of a disc refiner is to abrade the individual wood pulp fibers.

Processing of fibers in a low consistency refiner may be performed on both chemically and mechanically refined pulps and in particular may be used sequentially with a high consistency refiner to further process the fibers after they have been separated in the high consistency disk refiner.

In operation, a low consistency disc refiner is generally considered to exert a type of abrasive action upon individual fibers in the pulp mass so that the outermost layers of the individual cigar-shaped fibers are frayed. This fraying of the fibers, which is considered to increase the freeness of the fibers, facilitates the bonding of the fibers when they are made into paper.

Paper fibers are relatively slender, tube-like structural components made up of a number of concentric layers. Each of these layers (called "lamellae") consists of finer structural components (called "fibrils") which are helically wound and bound to one another to form the cylindrical lamellae. The lamellae are in turn bound to each other, thus forming a composite which, in accordance with the laws of mechanics, has distinct bending and torsional rigidity characteristics. A relatively hard outer sheath (called the "primary wall") encases the lamellae. The primary wall is often partially removed during the pulping process. Raw fibers are relatively stiff and have relatively low surface area when the primary wall is intact, and thus raw fibers exhibit poor bond formation, with the result that paper which is of raw fibers has limited strength

It is generally accepted that it is the purpose of a pulp stock refiner, which is essentially a milling device, to partially remove the primary wall and break the bonds between the fibrils of the outer layers to yield a frayed surface, thereby increasing the surface area of the fiber multi-fold.

Disc refiners typically consist of a pattern of raised bars interspaced with grooves. Paper fibers contained in a water stock are caused to flow between opposed refiner discs or plates which are rotating with respect to each other. As the stock flows radially outwardly across the refiner plates, the fibers are forced to flow over the bars. The milling action is thought to take place between the closely spaced bars on opposed discs.

Disk refiners have proven to be cost effective devices with high throughput which can readily operate over a range of stock flows. Nevertheless, improvements in disk wear life and other means of reducing maintenance remain desirable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The disk refiner of this invention improves the overall performance of a twin disk refiner of the type having two stationery disks and a single rotor on which are mounted opposed refiner disks which oppose the stationery disks. As is conventional, one of the stationary disks is fixed and the other is mounted for axial movement towards the other stationery disk. In the past the shaft on which the rotor was mounted was movable axially to position the rotor between the stationery disks as the distance between the stationery disks was adjusted. In the disk refiner of this invention the rotor is mounted for axial movement to a spline. The spline forms part of a drive shaft connected to a drive motor. The spline mounting facilitates hydrodynamic balance of the rotor between the stationary disks.

The disk refiner supports the stationery disks on less rigid structure but is designed to allow stock to circulate on both sides of the disk support structure. This improves alignment between the rotor mounted refiner disks and the stationary refiner desks in two ways: by balancing fluid pressures on both sides of the stationery mounting structures for the refiner disks, and by preventing thermal gradients from causing deflection of these same structures.

In order to prevent damage to the refiner plates due to tramp metal, the incoming stock is centrifugally accelerated in a shroud which separates and traps tramp metal or the like before the stock passes between the stationery and rotating refiner disks. The shroud has passageways which allow the rotating fluid to enter a reservoir which surrounds the drive shaft and feeds the gaps between the rotor and the stationary plates. By pre-rotating the stock before it flows to the rotor, stock is more easily balanced between both sides of the rotor because the rotating stock can pass through openings in the rotor to reach the rotor back side.

It is a feature of the present invention to provide a disk refiner with reduced wear of the refiner plates.

It is another feature of the present invention to provide a double disk refiner with a rotor which is free to position itself between stationery refining plates.

It is a still further feature of the present inventions to provide a double disk refiner which incorporates a means for removing foreign objects before stock is processed by the refiner.

It is a yet further feature of the present invention to provide a lighter weight refiner which supports with less deflection the stationary refiner plates.

It is another further feature of the present invention to provide a double disk refiner with lower maintenance cost.

Further objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a rear isometric view, partly cutaway in section, of the double disk refiner of this invention.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the double disk refiner of FIG.1, taken

along section line 2-2.

FIG. 3 is a front isometric view of the double disk refiner of FIG.1 shown open for maintenance.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

5 Referring more particularly to FIGS. 1- 3 wherein like numbers refer to similar parts, a double disk refiner 20 is shown in FIGS.1-3. The refiner 20 has a machine frame 22 on which is mounted a rotating assembly 24 having a shaft 26 mounted by bearings 28 to a shaft case 30. The shaft 26 is connected at a first end 32 to a drive motor (not shown). A second end 33 of the shaft 26
10 passes into a refiner housing 34 through a circular bulkhead 35 at a removable packing box 36. As shown in FIG. 2, the second shaft end 33 is machined to form a spline 38 to which the hub 40 of a rotor 42 is mounted.

The drive side 43 of the refiner housing 34 has a stock inlet 44 which supplies stock to a shroud 46 defining a triangular cross-section passageway
15 between an outer conical shell 48, an inner cylindrical structure 50, and a drive side stationery plate support structure 51. The inner cylindrical structure 50 surrounds the bulkhead 35. The shroud 46 causes the stock to rotate producing approximately one-half G acceleration directed radially outwardly of the cylindrical structure 50. The triangular passageway terminates at a baffle
20 52, thus causing the stock to pass through a series of six holes 54 to enter a reservoir formed on the inside of the cylindrical structure 50 surrounding the shaft 26.

The shroud 46 performs several functions. The circular path about which the stock is forced to flow separates tramp metal and other heavy weight
25 junk, throwing it radially outwardly against the other conical shell 48. The radial acceleration, however, is not so great that it causes heavy weight tramp metal or the like to travel upwardly along the conical shell into engagement with the baffle 52. Rather the tramp metal or the like collects near a junk outlet 56

positioned near the lower most portion or bottom of the shroud 46.

The rotary motion of the stock about the cylindrical structure 50 persists as the flow passes through the holes 54 and, in accordance with the conservation of angular momentum, the rotation of the stock increases as it approaches the rotation axis defined by the shaft 26. Viscous drag of the shaft 26 on the stock flow as it moves along the shaft towards the rotor 42 also accelerates the stock so that the stock can flow through the openings 58 in the rotor 42 with less resistance and thus less pressure drop. Thus the presence of the shroud 46 removes tramp metal or the like and improves the uniformity of the stock flow between the drive side, non-moving, stationery plates 60, the drive side rotating plates 62 and the movable stationery plates 64 and the door side rotating plates 66.

The shroud 46 brings stock into engagement with the back side of the stationary plate support structure 51, which forms part of the triangular passageway, thus applying hydraulic support to the support structure 51. This hydraulic support allows the stator's support structure to be constructed of a substantially lighter weight structural section. For example a prior part refiner employing a support structure having a thickness of four and one-half inches has twice the deflection of a support structure 51 having a thickness of forty-seven millimeters (about two inches). The fact that the support structure 51 is essentially completely surrounded by stock results in very little temperature gradient within the support structure with the result that thermal deflection is essentially eliminated. The improved thermal design eliminates environmental temperature and temperature of the stock being processed as variables affecting refiner performance.

In a refiner the action on the fibers as they pass between the plates 62, 66 mounted on the rotor 42 and the stationary plates 60, 64 requires that the plates be closely spaced, typically between two and four thousandths of an inch apart. Maintaining this gap uniformly across the entire refiner plate

diameter -- which may be fifty-four inches across or more -- has in the past resulted in massive support structures to resist deflections caused by pressures between the refiner plates.

The stock is fed to the rotor 42 at a pressure of twenty to ninety psi, and the rotor produces a pumping action, increasing the pressure approximately fifteen to twenty psi, depending on the particular pattern of bars on the refiner plates, as the stock flows between the refiner disks. The portion of the refiner housing 34 which contains the rotor 42 between the stationary plates 60, 64 defines a refining chamber.

After flowing through the refiner plates, in the refining chamber, stock exits the refiner housing 34 through a tangential stock outlet 65. By presenting the stock pressure to both sides of the stationery disk support structure 51, the deflection loads on the support structure 51 are substantially reduced, allowing a lighter weight support structure which has lower deflections under load. A synergistic effect of using lighter weight structural sections is that the wetted parts of the refiner 20 can be constructed of stainless steel, preferably at least type 316L, without a prohibitive cost.

One set of stationery plates 64 is mounted on a sliding head 68. The sliding head 68 is mounted for translation toward and away from the rotor 42. The sliding head 68 is mounted by a bearing ring 72 to a removable door 70 which forms part of the refiner housing 34. The sliding head 68 is balanced by a counterweight 74 and driven by a screw jack mechanism 76 which employs a variable frequency drive motor 78, similar to the arrangement shown in FIG. 2 of U.S. Patent No. 4,589,598 to Ellery, Sr., which is incorporated herein by reference.

The rotor 42 is mounted on the spline 38 at the end of the shaft 26. The spline transmits rotary power to the rotor, but is not affixed to the rotor 42. Sufficient play between the rotor hub 40 and the spline 38 is provided so that the rotor 42 slides along the spline 38, thus positioning the rotor 42 in response

to hydrodynamic forces between the stationary plates mounted on the support structure 51 and the stationary plates 64 mounted on the sliding head 68. A very small amount of tilting of the rotor with respect to the axis of the shaft 26 is also accommodated by the spline hub mount.

5 The sliding head 68 supports the door side stationery plates 64 on a support structure 80. This support structure allows stock to flow behind about thirty percent of the outer circumference of the support 80 which represents approximately fifty percent of the area of the refiner plate 64. Further, the stock which supports the outer thirty percent of the support 80 is at a higher pressure
10 than the stock which flows through the shroud 46, due to the pumping action of the rotor 42. The hydraulic support of the support structure 80 thus supports the most highly loaded portion of the plate because the fluid pressure increases radially as the fluid is pumped by the rotor 42. The support structure 80 has minimal thermal gradients because the plate is either exposed directly
15 to the stock or is remote from the exterior of the refiner 20. Thus deflections induced by thermal gradients are minimized.

 The increased rigidity of the stationary plate mounting structures 51, 80 combined with the ability of the rotor 42 to align itself with the stationery plates 60, 64 results in greater uniformity of the gap between the rotating refiner
20 plates 62, 64 mounted on the rotor 42 and the stationery plates 60, 64. The gap between the refiner plates typically is between two and four thousandths of a inch and is typically maintained and supported by the physical thickness of the pulp fibers as they pass between the refiner plates. Greater uniformity of this gap produces more uniform refining and reduced wear.

25 The refiner plates 60, 62, 64, 66 are typically segments which make up refining disks which, depending on the throughput of the refiner 20, may have a diameter of between sixteen and fifty-four inches. The refiner plates wear and must be periodically be replaced. Papermaking is a continuous process and if any given component of the process between wood chips and finished paper is

out of commission for a significant length of time, the entire capital-intensive system may be brought to a halt. Thus simplicity and speed in maintenance is important. The refiner 20 is responsive to this need to minimize maintenance by employing stainless steel for the wetted components of the refiner to minimize corrosion, reducing periodic maintenance by reducing misalignment between refiner disks. Maintenance is further facilitated by a maintenance arm 82 shown in FIG. 3 which attaches to the hub 40 of the rotor 42 and removes the rotor from the refiner housing 34 where the plate segments 62, 64 can be unbolted and replaced.

The refining action produced by the refiner 20 is used in a wide variety of paper types, and thus processing capabilities of between 100 and 6,000 gallons per minute are desirable. These production flow rates correspond to power requirements of between 50 and 3,000 hp or approximately one-half hp per gallon per minute, although horsepower is also dependent on fiber content and fiber type. In fact the position of the sliding head 68 is controlled in response to motor torque to control energy input to the stock being processed by the refiner 20. By reducing the structural weight of the stationary plate supports, the overall weight of the refiner is reduced approximately fifteen to twenty percent.

It should be understood that although the refiner 20 is shown as a weldment, the various structural components could be castings. However weldments have the advantage of allowing a larger number of models to be offered, using cost effective modern computer driven laser or plasma cutting techniques.

It should be understood that maintenance of the refiner 20 is further facilitated by arranging the rotating assembly 24 as a discrete assembly which can be replaced as a unit. Moreover, the rotating assembly may use greased lubricated bearings or recirculating oil bearings which offer benefits where higher power motors are used.

Wherein a spline is disclosed and claimed it should be understood to include any non circular shaft cross-section which a complimentary opening in the rotor hub to allow the rotor to move along the shaft in response to motion of the sliding head 68, and accommodating such slight axial alignment as may be necessary for optimal positioning of the rotor with respect to stationary refining disks 60, 64. U.S. 4,783,014 to Fredriksson et al. discloses examples of such non circular shaft cross-sections, and is incorporated herein by reference.

It should be understood that tramp or junk refers to material such as metal nuts, bolts or other material which is not intended to be present in a stream of stock. Such materials can cause significant damage if they become lodged between refiner plates.

It should be understood that the removable packing box may be designed for standard breakage packing or alternately be a mechanical seal of the type known to those skilled in the shaft sealing art.

It is understood that the invention is not limited to the particular construction and arrangement of parts herein illustrated and described, but embraces such modified forms thereof as come within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A twin disk refiner comprising:

a housing having portions defining a stock inlet and portions defining a stock outlet downstream from the stock inlet;

a shaft which extends into the housing and which supports a rotor for rotation within the housing, and wherein oppositely facing refining disks are mounted on the rotor;

portions of the housing which define a first plate support structure through which the shaft extends;

a first fixed refiner disk mounted to the first plate support structure;

a second fixed refiner disk mounted to a second plate support structure;

a refining chamber defined within the housing between the first plate support structure and the second plate support structure, wherein the rotor is position within the refining chamber so that rotation of the rotor moves the oppositely facing rotor desks about the shaft in refining relation to the first fixed refining disk and the second refining disk; and

portions of the housing upstream of the refining chamber which define an upstream chamber in communication with the inlet, wherein the first plate support structure has an upstream face which is exposed to and substantially surrounded by the upstream chamber, such that fluid introduced into the housing at the inlet flows through the upstream chamber and then into the refining chamber, such that the first plate support structure is exposed to fluid pressure on its upstream face which counters the fluid pressure applied to the first fixed refiner disk within the refining chamber.

2. A disk refiner comprising:

a machine frame;

a shaft mounted for rotation on the machine frame and extending through a bulkhead into a refiner housing, a portion of the shaft extending into the refiner housing forming a spline;

a first non-rotating refiner disk mounted to a stationary support structure forming part of the refiner housing;

a second non-rotating refiner disk mounted on a sliding head in spaced parallel relation to the first non-rotating refiner disk for sliding motion towards the first non-rotating refiner disk;

a rotor having a central hub, the hub slidably mounting the rotor on the portion of the shaft forming the spline, the rotor supporting a third refiner disk in spaced parallel refining relation with the first refining disk, and a fourth refining disk in spaced parallel refining relation to the second refining disk, the shaft transmitting rotating motion through the spline to the rotor;

a stock inlet leading to a portion of the housing forming a circular flow path formed between an inner shell and an outer shell, the circular flow path for inducing stock to rotate about the shaft, the stock inlet being positioned so that gravity and centrifugal acceleration moves heavy weight tramp towards the outer shell;

an outlet for heavy weight tramp located near a lowermost portion of the outer shell;

at least one opening through the inner shell forming a means by which rotational motion of stock is preserved as the stock flows towards the rotor.

3. The refiner of Claim 1 wherein the stationary support structure forming part of the refiner housing forms part of the circular flow path so that hydraulic pressure due to the stock is presented to substantially all sides of the stationary support structure.

4. A pulp disk refiner comprising:

a machine frame on which a shaft is mounted for rotation, the shaft being connected at a first end to a drive motor, and wherein a second end of the shaft passes into a refiner housing through a circular bulkhead, wherein the second shaft end is machined to form a spline to which a rotor is mounted;

portions of a drive side of the refiner housing which define a stock inlet through which stock is supplied to a shroud, the shroud defining a passageway between an outer conical shell, an inner cylindrical structure and a drive side stationery plate support structure, the inner cylindrical structure surrounding the bulkhead, and wherein the shroud causes the stock to rotate producing an acceleration directed radially outwardly of the cylindrical structure, the passageway terminating at a baffle, thus causing the stock to pass through a plurality of holes in the inner cylindrical structure to enter a reservoir formed on the inside of the inside cylindrical structure surrounding the shaft, and wherein the circular path about which the stock is forced to flow separates tramp metal and other heavy weight tramp , throwing it radially outwardly against the outer conical shell, wherein the radial acceleration produced is not so great that it causes heavy weight tramp to travel upwardly along the conical shell into engagement with the baffle; a tramp outlet positioned near the lowermost portion of the shroud, and wherein rotary motion of the stock about the cylindrical structure persists as the flow passes through the holes so that the stock can flow through openings formed in the rotor with less resistance.

5. The refiner of Claim 4 wherein the shroud brings stock into engagement with a back side of the stationary plate support structure, said back side forming part of a triangular passageway, thus applying hydraulic support to the stationary plate support structure which allows the stationary plate support structure to be constructed of a substantially lighter weight structural section.

6. The refiner of Claim 4 wherein a movable stationery plate is mounted on a sliding head, and wherein the sliding head is mounted for translation toward and away from the rotor, the sliding head being mounted by a bearing ring to a removable door which forms part of the refiner housing, the sliding head being balanced by a counterweight and driven by a mechanism which employs a variable frequency drive motor.

7. The refiner of Claim 4 wherein the rotor is mounted on a spline formed at the end of the shaft, and wherein the spline transmits rotary power to the rotor but is not affixed to the rotor, and wherein sufficient play between the rotor and the spline is provided so that the rotor slides along the spline, thus positioning the rotor in response to hydrodynamic forces between the stationary plate mounted on the support structure and the stationary plate mounted on the sliding head and a very small amount of tilting of the rotor with respect to the axis of the shaft is also accommodated by the spline hub mount.

8. The refiner of Claim 6 wherein sliding head supports the door side stationery plate on a support structure which allows stock to flow behind about thirty percent of the outer circumference of the support.

9. The refiner of Claim 4 wherein the passageway has a triangular cross-section.

10. The refiner of Claim 4 wherein all portions of the refiner which come into contact with the stock are constructed of stainless steel.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A papermaking refiner has two stationary disks mounted to the support structure of a fixed housing. A rotating disk is mounted on a shaft which
5 extends through the housing. The support structure allows stock to circulate on both sides of the disk support structure, thus balancing fluid pressures on both sides of the fixed disk and preventing thermal gradients for reduced deflection of the disks. The incoming stock is centrifugally accelerated in a shroud which separates and traps tramp metal or the like before the stock passes to the
10 refiner disks. The shroud has passageways which allow the rotating fluid to enter a reservoir which surrounds the drive shaft and feeds the gaps between the rotor and the stationary plates.

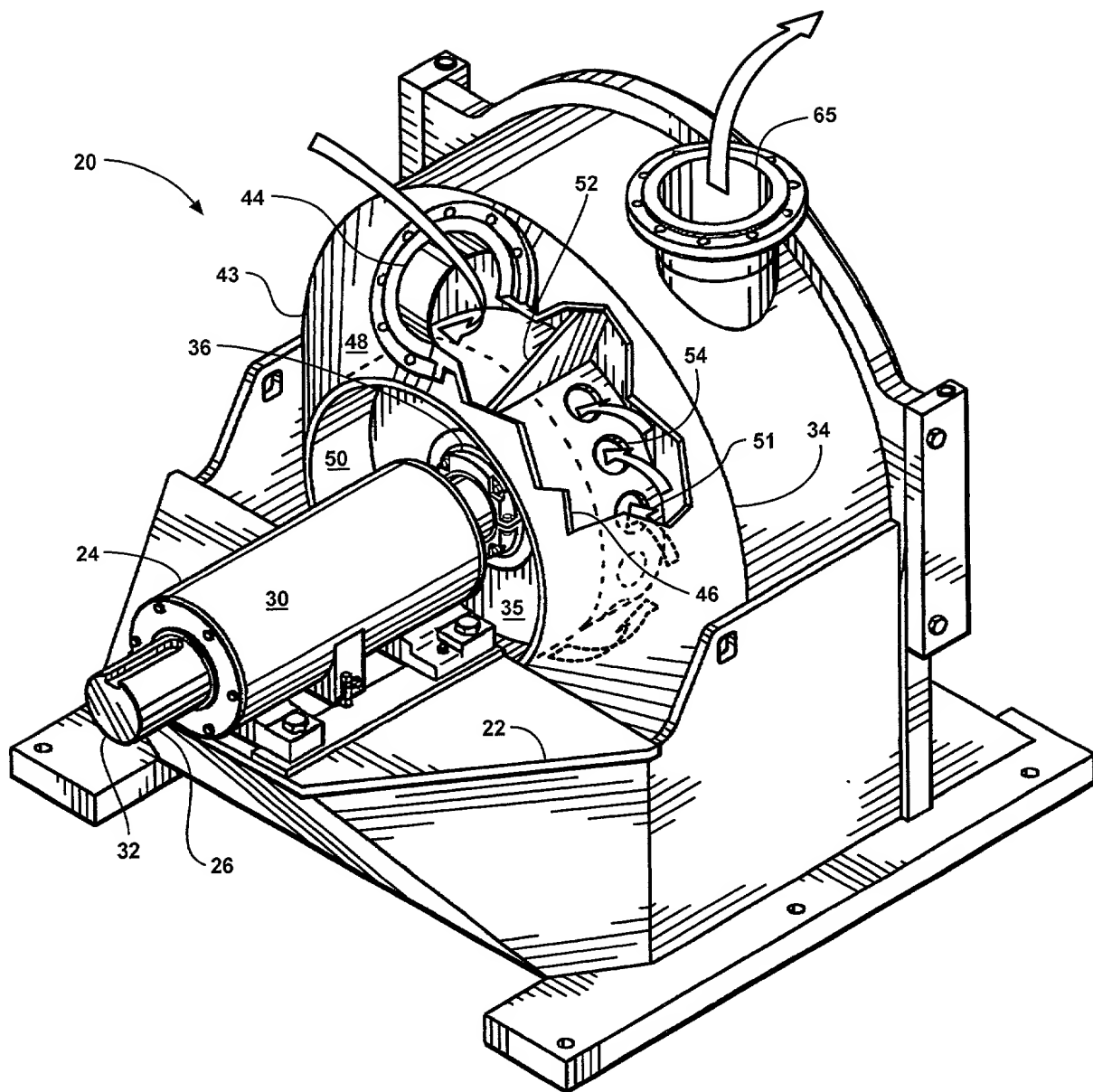


FIG. 1

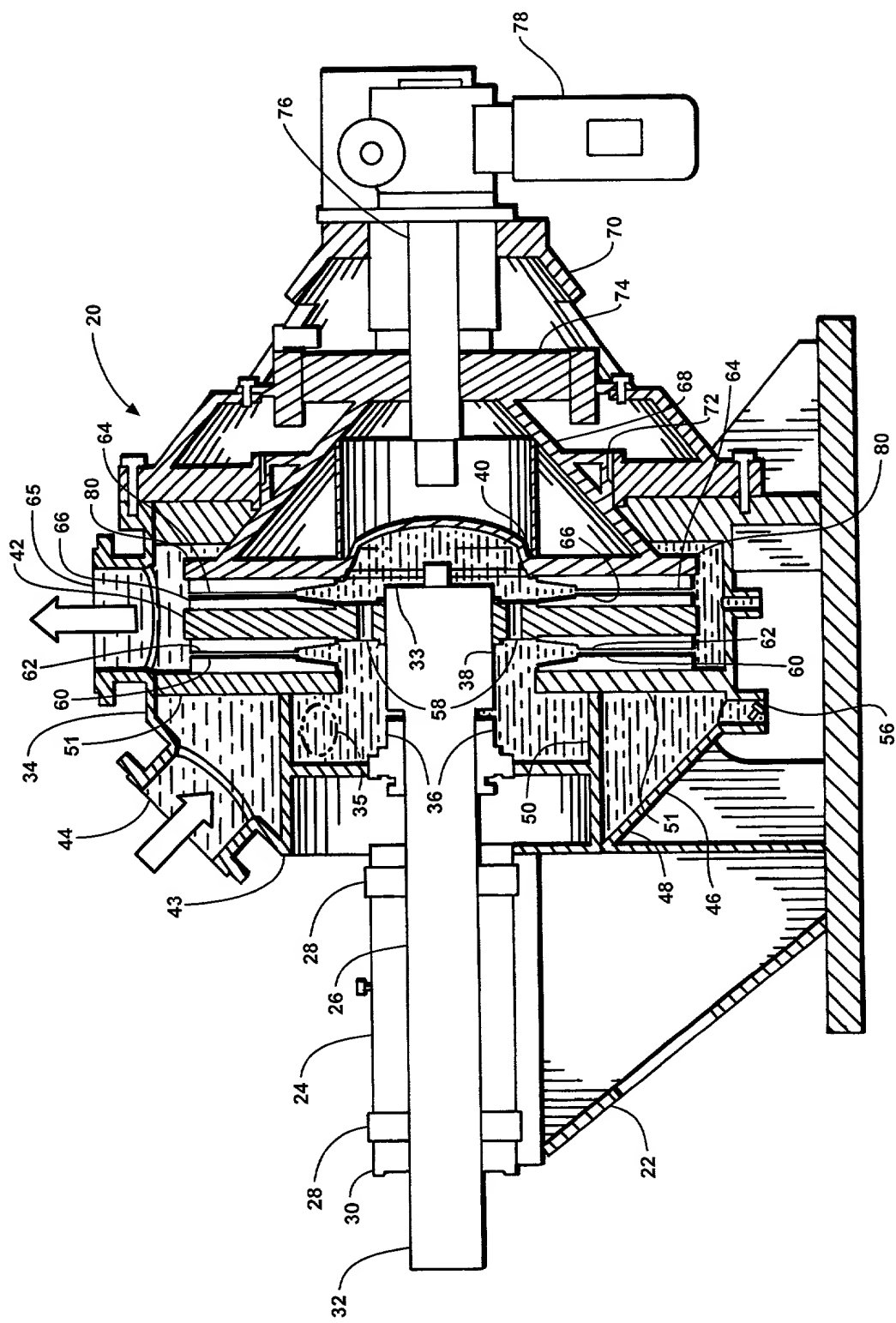


FIG. 2

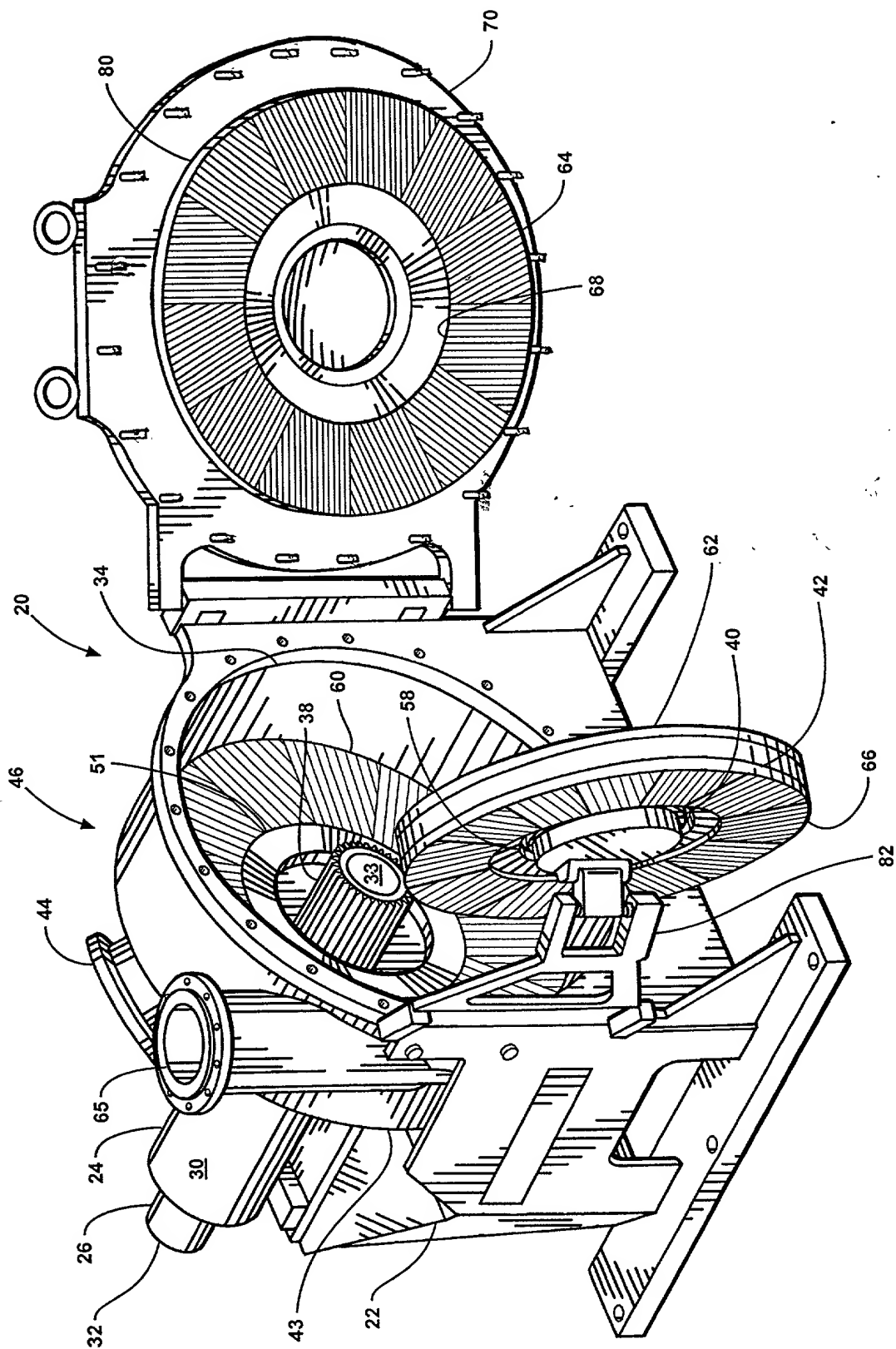


FIG. 3

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: TANGENTIAL DISCHARGE DISK REFINER, the specification of which

☒ [X] is attached hereto.

☐ [] was filed on _____ as Application No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a), and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as follows: None.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also

identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
<u>None.</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>None.</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Application Serial Number)	(filing date)	(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Application Serial Number)	(filing date)	(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)

And I hereby appoint Theodore J. Long, Jeffrey S. Ward, David R.J. Stiennon, Jeffrey W. Smith, and Patrick J.G. Stiennon, of Lathrop & Clark LLP, 740 Regent Street, Suite 400, P.O. Box 1507, Madison, Wisconsin, 53701-1507, (608) 257-7766, Patent Office Registration Nos. 20648, 33212, 33455, and 34934 respectively, as well as Raymond W. Campbell and Gerald Mathews at the Beloit Corporation, One St. Lawrence Avenue, Beloit, Wisconsin, 53511-6270, (800) 723-5648, Patent Office Registration Nos. 29902 and 24575 respectively, my attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please direct all communications concerning this application to:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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